

**Social Sciences Branch  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
Woods Hole, MA**

# **Survey on the Socio-Economic Aspects of Commercial Fishing Vessel Owners in New England and the Mid-Atlantic**



<b>You can take this survey on line at:</b>	<b><a href="http://www.OwnerSurvey1.com">www.OwnerSurvey1.com</a></b>
<b>Your Username:</b>	<b>[HULLNUM]</b>
<b>Your Password:</b>	<b>[ABC123]</b>

Your responses and participation in this survey are **CONFIDENTIAL**. A private contractor, Eastern Research Group, Inc., will collect the data you provide.

Questions about the survey? *Call toll free: 1-855-314-0779; or email: [vesselsurvey@erg.com](mailto:vesselsurvey@erg.com)*

*Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Tammy Murphy, NOAA Line office, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA, 02543-1026.*

***Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as amended in 2006. Responses are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Version 1.A.***

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**Please tell us about your fishing in calendar year 2012.**  
**The information you provide will remain strictly confidential.**  
**You will not be identified with your answers.**

1. What are the top three species of fish you targeted during 2012 and what was your primary gear for each?

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRIMARY GEAR USED</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

2. Please look at the following list of fisheries and indicate which three fisheries you considered to be your top three fisheries in 2012, with #1 indicating the fishery that was most important to you, #2 indicating the fishery that was second most important to you, and #3 indicating the fishery that was third most important to you.

#1 (Most Important Fishery): \_\_\_\_\_

#2 (Second Most Important Fishery): \_\_\_\_\_

#3 (Third Most Important Fishery): \_\_\_\_\_

Black Sea Bass	Scup
Herring	Skate
Lobster	Spiny Dogfish
Mackerel	Squid, Illex
Monkfish	Squid, Loligo
Multispecies/Groundfish, sectors	Summer Flounder
Multispecies/Groundfish, common pool	Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog
Red Crab	Tilefish
Scallop, general category IFQ	Other (please indicate): _____
Scallop, general category non-IFQ	
Scallop, limited access	

3. Why do you consider it to be your primary fishery?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions 4-6 are about your ownership of commercial fishing vessels in the year 2012.**

4. **How many commercial fishing vessels did you own by yourself in 2012? (Note: if the number of vessels you owned by yourself changed during 2012, please indicate how many vessels you owned by yourself for most of 2012).**

\_\_\_\_\_ Vessel(s)

5. **How many commercial vessels did you own with other people in 2012? (Note: if the number of vessels you owned by yourself with others changed during 2012, please indicate how many vessels you owned with other people for most of 2012).**

\_\_\_\_\_ Vessel(s)

6. **How many commercial vessels did you purchase or sell during calendar year 2012?**

- a. Number of commercial vessels that you owned yourself that you sold: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel(s)
- b. Number of group-owned commercial vessels that you sold your interest in: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel(s)
- c. Number of commercial vessels that you purchased by yourself: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel(s)
- d. Number of commercial vessels that you purchased an interest in: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel(s)  
(for part d, please do not include the vessels that you indicated in part c.)

**Questions 7 and 8 help us to understand and communicate the importance of fishing income and other income sources to your household.**

7. **In the table below, please list all major sources of household income in 2012, including fishing, starting with the most important.**

**Please include sources of income such as investments and unemployment payments. Estimate the percentage that each contributed to your total household income.**

**Please consider all sources of income from everyone that lives in your house. If you have more than four income sources, please use the lines provided on the next page.**

	Source	% of Total Household Income
Most important		
Second most important		
Third most important		
Fourth most important		

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8. Please indicate whether you agree, disagree, or are uncertain about the following underlined statement by checking ONE response for each time period:

My fishing income in 2012, if that were my annual fishing income over the next few years, is enough to sustain my fishing business over the following time frames:

- a. Short Term (1-2 years)    \_\_\_AGREE    \_\_\_DISAGREE    \_\_\_ UNCERTAIN
- b. Medium Term (3-4 years)    \_\_\_AGREE    \_\_\_DISGAREE    \_\_\_ UNCERTAIN
- c. Long Term (5+ years)    \_\_\_AGREE    \_\_\_DISAGREE    \_\_\_ UNCERTAIN

**Questions 9-14 are about your family's involvement in fishing.**

9. As of December 31, 2012, how many years had you been involved in commercial fishing?

\_\_\_\_\_Years

10. As of December 31, 2012, how many generations of your family fished commercially, including yourself?

\_\_\_\_\_Generations

11. In 2012, were any members of your immediate or extended family (for example, parents, children, siblings, uncles/aunts, cousins, in-laws) involved in commercial fishing or other fishing-related activities (for example, book-keeping, provisioning the vessel, marketing)?

YES (If YES, Continue with Question 12)

NO (If NO, Go to Question 17)

**For Questions 12 and 13, we would like you to think about  
your family's work on your fishing vessel(s) in 2012.**

12. How many members of your family, other than yourself, worked on your vessel in 2012?

\_\_\_\_\_ Family members (If the answer is NONE, go to Question 14, below)

13. For these family members, did their level of involvement on your vessel change in 2012?

1. Increased
2. Remained the same
3. Decreased
4. Other (please explain below)

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**For Questions 14 and 15, we would like you to think about  
family members that worked for your fishing business in 2012,  
but did not work directly on your vessel(s) in 2012.**

14. In 2012, how many members of your family, other than yourself, were involved in other fishing-related activities that supported your fishing business? Examples of other fishing-related activities include book-keeping, provisioning the vessel and marketing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Family members (If the answer is NONE, go to Question 16, below)

15. For these family members, how do you think their level of involvement changed in 2012?

1. Increased
2. Remained the same
3. Decreased
4. Other (please explain below)

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**Question 16 is about your family's involvement on fishing vessel(s) and in fishing businesses other than your own in 2012.**

16. In 2012, how many members of your family, other than yourself, were involved in commercial fishing or fishing-related businesses other than your own ?

\_\_\_\_\_ Family members

**Please answer Questions 17-23 based on your fishing activities in 2012 on your primary vessel and in your primary fishery.**

17. In what port did you usually moor your vessel between fishing trips during 2012?

Port \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

18. What was your primary port of landing in 2012?

Port \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

19. Please circle the ONE factor that contributed the most to your decision regarding the *amount of time* to spend fishing using your vessel during 2012.

1. Personal preference
2. Regulations on days-at-sea
3. Quota limitations
4. Physical condition of the vessel or gear
5. Limitations due to weather
6. Price of fish
7. Other (please describe)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. For your primary vessel in 2012, which best describes how your crew was paid? (Please check ONE response).

1. A share system (revenues and expenses were shared between the boat and crew)
2. Per-trip
3. Hourly wage
4. Other (please describe)\_\_\_\_\_

**If your answer to Question 20 included payments to crew through a share system, please continue to Question 21. If not, please go to Question 25.**

21. For share systems in 2012, what were the typical percentages distributed to the boat and to the crew?

\_\_\_\_\_ % Boat (owner) share

\_\_\_\_\_ % Crew share

= 100 %

22. For most of the trips taken by your primary vessel in 2012, was the vessel owner-operated or was a captain hired? Please circle ONE response.

1. Owner-operated (Go to Question 24)
2. Hired captain (Continue with Question 23)

23. For share systems in 2012, how was payment to the hired captain of the boat usually handled? [If your vessel was mostly owner-operated, please go to Question 24].

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Question 24 is about how fishing expenses are handled under share systems.

24. a. In 2012, what expenses did you pay a portion of?

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- b. For this vessel, were there new expenses in 2012 that your crew members were asked to pay that they were not asked to pay before? (Please circle ONE response).

YES (Please explain below)

NO (Go to Question 25)

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**Questions 25-28 are about the crew  
on your primary vessel in 2012.**

- 25. What was the average size of the crew in 2012 for your vessel? (Include yourself if the vessel is owner operated, or include the hired captain).**

\_\_\_\_\_ Members

- 26. In 2012, how many of these crew members had been employed by you for:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Less than 1 year

\_\_\_\_\_ 2-4 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 5+ years

- 27. In 2012, overall how satisfied were you with your crew members? (Please circle ONE response).**

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied
6. Other \_\_\_\_\_

- 28. In 2012, did you hire any new crew not previously employed by you for your vessel? If so, how many members?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Members

**Responses to Question 29 help us understand  
the value of time for commercial fishermen.**

**29. Imagine for a moment that you were not a commercial fisherman in the year 2012 and had to work at another job that you could do.**

**a. Please indicate other jobs you think you could do and for which you could find employment, if any.**

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**b. What is your best estimate of how much you would have earned in 2012 in this job?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dollars Per Year

**c. Please indicate whether this estimate is based on full-time or part-time work (Please circle ONE response).**

1. Full-time
2. Part-time

**In Questions 30 and 31, we are interested in hearing about the amount of fish you have been allowed to catch in your primary fishery, given the rules and regulations in your primary fishery.**

- 30. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the amount of fish you are able to catch in your primary fishery under management conditions for your primary fishery? (Please circle ONE number for each of the following items).**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I feel that the amount of fish I caught under management regulations in 2012 was too low because it did not cover my investment in my boat.	1	2	3	4	5
b. It would be fairer if everyone could catch the same amount of fish each year.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Restrictions on the amount of fish I was allowed to catch in 2012 were unfair because I needed to be able to catch more in order to sustain my livelihood as a fisherman.	1	2	3	4	5
d. The resource should be allocated to those who need it most to survive as fishermen.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I felt like the amount of fish I was able to catch in 2012 was fair.	1	2	3	4	5

- 31. In terms of lease and share prices, how difficult was it for new people to enter your primary fishery in 2012? (Please circle ONE response).**

1. Very easy
2. Easy
3. Neither easy nor difficult
4. Difficult
5. Very difficult

**In Questions 32-38, please tell us about fisheries management.**

- 32. Have you ever participated in any aspect of federal fisheries management (such as attending meetings, writing letters, or serving on a committee)? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES  
NO

**If NO, please tell us why you have not participated, then GO TO QUESTION 34:**

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- 33. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the most recent federal government-led fisheries management process you participated in. (Please circle ONE number for each item).**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Commercial fishermen have been effectively integrated into fisheries management decisions.	1	2	3	4	5
b. I feel like fisheries managers are serious about involving commercial fishermen in the process of fisheries management.	1	2	3	4	5
c. I do not feel welcome in public meetings about fisheries management.	1	2	3	4	5
d. I feel like my opinions on fishing issues would be taken seriously if I chose to voice them in a formal setting.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I do not trust the managing authorities to make the right decisions when it comes to regulating fisheries.	1	2	3	4	5

34. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the management of your primary fishery? (Please circle ONE number for each item).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Opportunities for existing fishermen should not be reduced by new fishermen entering the fishery.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Management should aim to maximize the possible number of fishermen.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Fishing areas should belong to the fishermen who use them and should be off limits to other users (for example, fishermen from another fishery or wind farm activity).	1	2	3	4	5
d. Management can change quickly when conditions (income, stock levels, safety) change.	1	2	3	4	5
e. The goals of the management plan for my primary fishery are being met.	1	2	3	4	5
f. The management plan for my primary fishery helps protect the number of fish.	1	2	3	4	5
g. In my primary fishery, I am able to fish <b>when</b> I want.	1	2	3	4	5
h. In my primary fishery, I am able to fish <b>where</b> I want.	1	2	3	4	5

35. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the federal government's role in creating the regulations that governed your primary fishery in 2012. Please do not consider stock assessments released in 2013 or management actions implemented in 2013. (Please circle ONE number for each item).

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. I did not believe the information the people in charge of the process presented.	1	2	3	4	5
b. The people in charge of the process were not equally fair to everyone involved.	1	2	3	4	5
c. I had the right to appeal decisions that were being made that I thought were unfair .	1	2	3	4	5
d. I had no opportunity to correct information that I thought was inaccurate.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I had the opportunity to add new information that was relevant to the decision making process.	1	2	3	4	5
f. I felt like the opinions of commercial fishermen were not taken seriously.	1	2	3	4	5
g. I agreed with the most recent stock assessment for my primary fishery as of December 31, 2012.	1	2	3	4	5

36. Have the rules and regulations in your primary fishery changed in 2013, from what was in place in 2012? (Please circle ONE response.)

YES  
NO  
I don't know.

37. Was a new stock assessment released in 2013 for your primary fishery? (Please circle ONE response.)

YES  
NO  
I don't know.

38. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please circle ONE number for each item.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Fishermen have a responsibility to participate in the fisheries management process.	1	2	3	4	5
b. I make every effort to ensure my actions do not harm the fishery unnecessarily.	1	2	3	4	5
c. The ocean is very large, there is no way we can over-fish it.	1	2	3	4	5
d. The natural environment is important to me because that is how I make my living.	1	2	3	4	5

**In Questions 39 and 40, please respond by thinking about activity  
in your primary fishery overall during 2012.  
We are not asking about your personal activity as a vessel owner.**

39. For your primary fishery overall, please indicate if you think the current levels of each of the following items were high, medium or low in 2012, or circle "I don't know". (Please circle ONE response for each item).

a. Level of bycatch (catch of non-target species).	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	I don't know
b. Level of discards (live or dead catch of target or non-target species that is thrown overboard).	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	I don't know
c. Level of highgrading (low value fish thrown overboard in order to keep higher value fish).	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	I don't know

40. For your primary fishery overall, under the regulations for that fishery in 2012, please indicate the extent to which you think each of the following items increased, decreased or stayed the same, or circle “I don’t know”(Please circle ONE response for each item).

	Significantly Decreased	Decreased	No Change	Increased	Significantly Increased	
a. Level of bycatch (catch of non-target species).	1	2	3	4	5	I don’t know
b. Level of discards (live or dead catch of target or non-target species that is thrown overboard).	1	2	3	4	5	I don’t know
c. Level of highgrading (low value fish thrown overboard in order to keep higher value fish).	1	2	3	4	5	I don’t know



**Your responses to Questions 41-49 will help us understand your life  
as a commercial fisherman and how satisfied you are.**

- 41. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about fishing as a career?  
(Please circle ONE number for each item).**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Most people would say that I am a leader in my local community.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Most people would say that I am a leader in my primary fishery.	1	2	3	4	5
c. I am proud to identify myself as a fisherman.	1	2	3	4	5
d. I feel a strong connection to other fishermen in the community.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I enjoy fishing.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Fishing is just a job to me.	1	2	3	4	5
g. Leaving the fishing industry is something I have considered.	1	2	3	4	5
h. Right now, I want to continue fishing, but only part-time until I retire.	1	2	3	4	5

42. In 2012, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the following items relating to the job of fishing? (Please circle ONE number for each item).

	Extremely Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
a. Your actual earnings	1	2	3	4	5
b. The predictability of your earnings	1	2	3	4	5
c. Job Safety	1	2	3	4	5
d. The amount of time spent away from home	1	2	3	4	5
e. Physical fatigue of the job	1	2	3	4	5
f. Healthfulness of the job	1	2	3	4	5
g. Adventure of the job	1	2	3	4	5
h. Challenge of the job	1	2	3	4	5
i. Opportunity to be your own boss	1	2	3	4	5

43. In general, how satisfied are you with (Please circle ONE number for each item):

	Extremely Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
a. Your life	1	2	3	4	5
b. Your physical health	1	2	3	4	5

44. Would you advise a young person to enter fishing? (Please circle ONE response and explain.)

YES

NO

WHY? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 45. If you had your life to live over, would you still have become a commercial fisherman? (Please circle ONE response and explain.)**

YES

NO

WHY? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 46. In 2012, did you usually fish alone or with a group of vessels? (Please circle ONE response.)**

1. Alone (Go to Question 48)

2. A Group of Vessels (Continue with Question 47)

- 47. If your answer to Question 46 was with “a group of vessels”, was it typically the same group of vessels? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES

NO

- 48. Please list your top 3 frustrations as a commercial fishing vessel owner.**

#1 Frustration \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
#2 Frustration \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
#3 Frustration \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 49. Please list your top 3 rewards as a commercial fishing vessel owner.**

#1 Reward \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
#2 Reward \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
#3 Reward \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**In Questions 50-59, please tell us about  
any insurance you may have.**

**50. Did you or members of your family have health insurance in 2012? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES (If YES, Continue with Question 51)  
NO (If NO, Go to Question 53)

**51. If YES, did this health insurance cover (Please circle ALL that apply.)**

a. Yourself	YES	NO
b. Your spouse or another adult	YES	NO
c. Your or your spouse's children	YES	NO

**52. Where did the health insurance come from? (Please circle ALL that apply.)**

1. From another employer I have
2. Spouse's/Partner's place of employment
3. Own private insurance
4. Federal or State insurance program
5. Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**53. Do you have health insurance now, in 2013? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES  
NO

**If your health insurance status changed from 2012 to 2013 (for example, if you have insurance now but didn't in 2012), please briefly explain below:**

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**54. In 2012, did you offer health insurance to your crew members? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES  
NO

**55. Do you offer health insurance to your crew members now, in 2013? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES

NO

**If whether or not you offered health insurance to your crew changed from 2012 to 2013 (for example, if you offer health insurance to crew now, but didn't in 2012), please briefly explain below:**

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**56. Did you have hull insurance in 2012? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES

NO

**57. Do you have hull insurance now, in 2013? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES

NO

**If your hull insurance situation changed from 2012 to 2013 (for example, you had hull insurance in 2012, but do not now), please briefly explain below:**

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**58. Did you have liability insurance (protection and indemnity insurance) for your crew in 2012? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES

NO

**59. Do you have liability insurance (protection and indemnity insurance) for your crew now, in 2013? (Please circle ONE response.)**

YES

NO

**If your liability insurance situation changed from 2012 to 2013 (for example, you had liability insurance in 2012, but do not now), please briefly explain below:**

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The remaining questions will help us improve our understanding of commercial fishermen.  
The information you provide to us will remain strictly confidential.  
Your name will never be associated with your answers.

60. What year were you born in? \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to each question in Questions 61-63  
about Hispanic origins, race, and ethnicity.  
For this survey, Hispanic origins are not races.

61. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? Hispanic or Latino refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. (Please circle ONE response.)

1. No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
2. Yes: Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
3. Yes: Puerto Rican
4. Yes: Cuban
5. Yes: Other Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin

62. Which racial category best describes you? (Please circle ALL that apply).

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian or Alaska Native
4. Asian
5. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
6. Some other race (alone)
7. Person of two or more races

63. What is your ethnicity? (For example: Norwegian, Portuguese, Polish, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

64. In 2012, what was the primary language spoken in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

65. Where were you born?

In the United States – please print the name of the State \_\_\_\_\_

Outside the United States – please print the name of the country \_\_\_\_\_

66. Where did you live in 2012? \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State

67. What was your marital status in 2012? (Please circle ONE response).

1. Married
2. Widowed
3. Divorced
4. Separated
5. Never married
6. Living with an unmarried partner

68. How many people lived in your primary household in 2012?

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults and \_\_\_\_\_ children under 18

69. Which category best describes the highest level of education that you completed? (Please circle ONE response).

1. Did not complete high school: please indicate highest grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_
2. High school diploma/equivalency
3. Associate's/ two year degree
4. Bachelor's/ four year degree
5. Graduate degree

70. Please indicate into which of the following categories your annual fishing income in 2012 best fits. (Please circle ONE response).

- |                         |                          |                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Under \$10,000       | 6. \$50,000 to \$59,999  | 11. \$100,000 to \$109,999 |
| 2. \$10,000 to \$19,999 | 7. \$60,000 to \$69,999  | 12. \$110,000 to \$119,999 |
| 3. \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 8. \$70,000 to \$79,999  | 13. \$120,000 to \$129,999 |
| 4. \$30,000 to \$39,999 | 9. \$80,000 to \$89,999  | 14. \$130,000 to \$139,999 |
| 5. \$40,000 to \$49,999 | 10. \$90,000 to \$99,999 | 15. \$140,000 or more      |

